(a) whether it is a fact that Government has achieved the targets of the nuclear agreement accomplished between India and America;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore and details of obstacles; and

(d) the names of countries with which Government is planning to have such agreements?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes. Government signed the 'Agreement for cooperation between the Government of India and the Government of the United States of America concerning peaceful uses of Nuclear Energy' on 10th October, 2008. Prior to this, Nuclear Suppliers Group had adopted a decision on 6th September, 2008 enabling its members to engage in cooperation with India on peaceful uses of nuclear energy. These developments mark an end of the nuclear technology denial regime against India which had been in place for more than 30 years.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) India has signed an agreement for civil nuclear cooperation with France on 30th September, 2008. An agreement for construction of additional nuclear power units at Kudankulam was signed with Russia on 5th December, 2008 during the visit of President Medvedev to India. Discussions are on going with a few other members of the Nuclear Suppliers Group on cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Measures to safeguard Indians in Afghanistan

1160. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Taliban, after Afghan war is felt to be back to refit, retrained and rearmed;

(b) whether it is a fact that such a situation would have a serious impact on development there and affect the work force drawn from India but working there; and

(c) the measures ensured to safeguard the interest of the work force of Indian origin?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) There has been a deterioration in the security situation in Afghanistan, mainly on account of expansion of the insurgency led by the Taliban and other extremist groups who enjoy sanctuary in another country. The continued deterioration in security situation could adversely impact the smooth and timely implementation of development projects in which Indian professionals are engaged in Afghanistan. The Embassy of India in Kabul works closely with the Government of Afghanistan on matters concerning the security of Indian nationals.